Indians in foreign jails

960. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 4,550 Indians are languishing in foreign jails in 84 cities globally;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released from foreign jails;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the countries where the Indians are languishing in jails are denied access even to our embassies abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) yes.

(b) Government has been taking several steps to get the Indian prisoners released from Jails in foreign countries. These include periodic demarches at the Government-to- Government level, as also requests made for the purpose of through diplomatic channels from time to time. Indian Missions/ Posts abroad also extend assistance by seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners requesting their speedy trial, providing advice/ guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with their relatives in India, ensuring proper treatment in the prisons and facilitating repatriation to India on their release.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Conveying of PM's view on Terrorists to Pakistan President

961. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has conveyed a message to Pakistan President that "any terrorists can not be freedom fighters" ;

(b) if so, the reaction/response of the Pakistani President/Government in this regard; and